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From: Jozel Bennet [REDACTED]
Sent: May-06-15 2:55 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 108 Submission

Dear Law Amendments Committee Members,

I write to you about BILL 108 - as a creative member of my community and culture here in Halifax, I beg you to reconsider these austere measures that are sending a message to me and my fellow artists that we are not welcome to stay here and make our lives here in Nova Scotia.

I have lived in Edmonton, Vancouver, and Toronto, and for me, Halifax is above them all. Here I feel I have found my people. People who value each other and the countless contributions, big and small, made for the sake of improving another's daily grind. The history of the province has always been moulded by artists, since the founding of NSCAD in 1887. This is no time to take that history for granted or it will no longer stay.

I appreciate the difficulty of decisions regarding such a large amount of money and impacting so many tax payers across the province. But I write to you as a final plea to help me stay here. After only 3.5 years I am now beginning to feel rooted, settled and establishing myself creatively. Many people whom I admire and work with are deeply threatened by this bill and if the incentive for lucrative work goes, then so do the artist who do so much more for next to nothing. What would Nova Scotia be if it lost tourism, theatre, comedy, music and entertainment in general?

As a recent Nova Scotian, young and creative and interested in having a future here, I ask you to make the to make the following amendments to the Financial Measures Act:

- 1) take clauses 15-17 and 21-23 out of the bill and leave our tax credits as they were.
- 2) Failing the above, live up to what you promised us when you stood at our doorsteps and campaigned. Amend clause 55 so that those earlier clauses do not come into effect until 2020.

Thank you for your time.

Jozel Bennet
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